

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1951.

The New York Times

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**SHEBA DISCOVERIES
SPUR WIDER HUNT****Explorer, Here to Raise Funds
and Recruits, Tells of Rich
Finds in Yemen Desert****QUEEN'S CAPITAL LOCATED****Hundreds of Acres of Ruins
3,000 Years Old Found 70
Feet Beneath Sands****By ROBERT C. DOTY**

American explorers who reached what they believe was the site of the Queen of Sheba's capital in southern Arabia early this year were greeted by her latter-day descendants with blue dye on their faces and a disquieting tendency to shoot strangers.

Wendell Phillips, 39-year-old leader of the first expedition to reach the ancient site at Mareb, Yemen, in nearly eighty years, told yesterday of some of the group's early difficulties. He returned here by air late Saturday to raise funds and recruit personnel to pursue excavations at Mareb seeking to establish definitely that the biblical queen lived and ruled there nearly 3,000 years ago.

Conditions have changed mightily in the thirty centuries since the beautiful and wise queen came out of the southern desert "with camels that bore spices, and very much gold and precious stones" to fill King Solomon's treasury at Jerusalem, and with a list of knotty questions to test his wisdom.

Mr. Phillips described the present Kingdom of Yemen—ancient Saba—as one of the last places in the world where the casual royal command of "Off with his head!" still could mean that someone's head would come off.

Present Leader Is Impressive

It almost never does in practice, he said. The present ruler of Sheba's land, Imam Ahmed, was described by the explorer as intelligent, quick-witted and impressive. He has taken his harbor of wandering tribesmen and agricultural Bedouins into the United Nations and, last spring, granted the American foundation for the Study of Man a concession to explore, and dig in the little-known interior of Yemen.

Unfortunately, the royal decree didn't reach the fierce tribesmen around Mareb as soon as the expedition did. The advance party of eight arrived in two automobiles, and were surrounded by indignant warriors, who disarmed and imprisoned the expedition in a stone fortress. The tribesmen had watched airplanes fly over but the two desert wagons were the first land motor vehicles they had seen. The Imam's authorization arrived next day and the party was freed, Mr. Phillips said.

Spires Protrude Through Desert

The explorers found the ancient queen's capital city to be several hundred acres of ruins, in stratified layers reaching down seventy feet. In the present city and in the barren plain around it, they found spires and columns of alabaster palaces and temples protruding through the sand.

Mr. Phillips said he hoped to begin full-scale excavations in the fall to unearth archaeological evidence of Sheba's life and times for analysis by Prof. W. F. Albright, chairman of the oriental seminary of Johns Hopkins University.

Meanwhile, the expedition's field hospital, equipped by the United States Navy, is seeking to build Arab goodwill by administering the first medical treatment the area has known. The Imam, Mr. Phillips said, has ordered construction of a headquarters building for the expedition, an airfield and a road from the city of Sana, nearer the Red Sea coast.

Ninety cases of artifacts uncovered at the ancient site of Timna, forty miles southeast of Mareb, in the last two years, are now en route to the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, associated with the American Foundation in the expedition, Mr. Phillips said.

In recognition of his work in the Timna area, Mr. Phillips was installed as Sheikh Hussein Ali Al Harithi of the Bedu warrior Bal Harithi tribe. When he left the Wadi Bethan area, 700 tribesmen, including some of his own Bal Harithi, were shooting at each other in a land dispute.

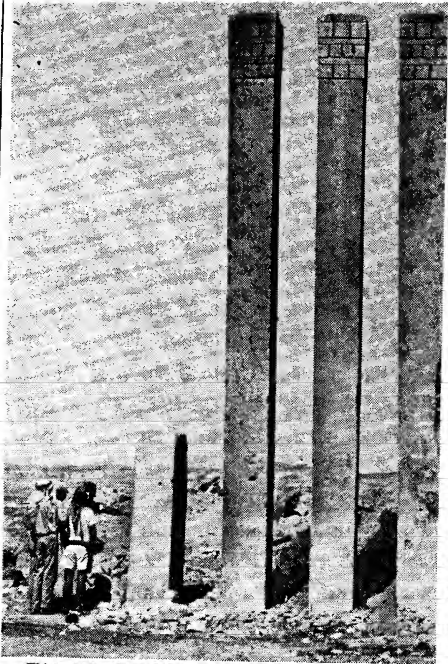
He wants to get back to see how it came out.

Antiquities Uncovered in Arabia by American Foundation Explorers

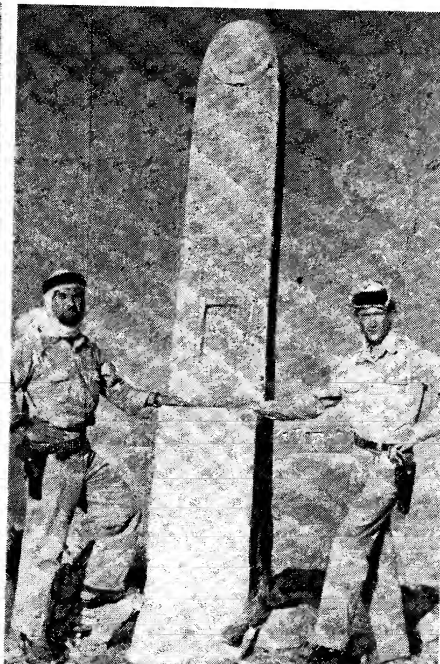
The present-day city of Mareb built over portions of the Queen of Sheba's capital city, the ruins of which are seen in foreground. These stratified ruins are more than seventy feet deep.



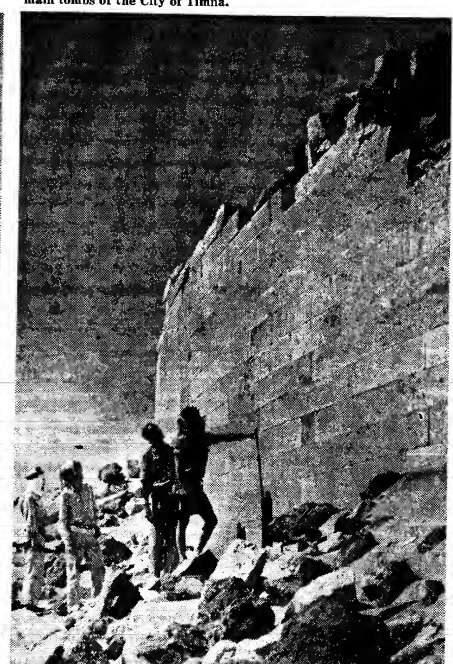
Alabaster statues were among art objects found in one of the main tombs of the City of Timna.



Thirty-foot pillars of the Temple of the Moon God, premier deity of the Ancient Sabaeans. The ruins are three miles from the Mareb capital city. The American Foundation Arabian Expedition will start excavations on this site in the immediate future.



Wendell Phillips, right, expedition leader, and Dr. Valentin de Mignard, surgeon, standing next to tall pillar with crescent moon and circular sun at the top. The moon represents the first god of ancient Sheba and the sun the second deity.



Huge circular Sabaeen "Temple of Bilquis," or Temple of Sheba. Purpose of this temple is unknown but the local Bedouins refer to it as Sheba's Temple. A huge monumental inscription encircles the upper rim.

American Foundation